

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

The family is vary from one culture to another, they almost always include the production and raising of children and the provision of both affection for family members and sexual relations for spouses. The family is a universal institution: it has existed in all known human societies. This universal is probably related to several vital functions the family fulfills for society: first, serving as the most influential social structure for socializing the child into the ways of society; second, providing for the child's basic biological needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and health care; third, offering means for satisfying and regulating the desires of adults for social intimacy, including sexual intimacy; and fourth, generating offspring who become the basis for the continuation of society. (Phillips, 1979:230) The families are a prominent feature of every society. Not only the families are molded by the society into whatever forms are functional, but families contribute significantly to the success of the society to which they belong families prepare future citizen and sustain adults engaged in the day to day business of society.

The family is a group of person united by ties of marriage, blood, or adoption; constituting a single household; interacting and communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother

and father, son and daughter, brother and sister; and creating and maintaining a common culture. (Burgess & Locke 1953,7-8)

The family relationship is one important thing in the family life. It includes in New York family, especially in 1963 shown by New Yorker author. One of New Yorker authors that criticized the New York family about relationship is Calvin Trillin, through his novel, *About Alice*. The author depicts family relationship that is very complex.

In society, the relationship and the phenomena are depicted by the author on his work. He expresses his thought and his feeling through literary work, it is influenced by social condition his work whom a certain place time in writing.

This novel that the writer chooses for this research is Calvin Trillin novel. Trillin attended public schools in Kansas City and went on to Yale University, where he served as chairman of the Yale Daily News and was a member of Scroll and Key before graduating in 1957; he later served as a Fellow of the University. After a stint in the U.S. Army, he worked as a reporter for Time magazine before joining the staff of The New Yorker in 1963. His reporting for The New Yorker on the racial integration of the University of Georgia was published in his first book, *An Education in Georgia*. He wrote the magazine's U.S. Journal series from 1967 to 1982, covering local events both serious and quirky throughout the United States. He has also written for The Nation magazine. He began in 1978 with a

column called Variations, which was eventually renamed Uncivil Liberties and ran through 1985. The same name Uncivil Liberties was used for the column when it was syndicated weekly in newspapers, from 1986 to 1995. Essentially the same column then ran without a name in Time magazine from 1996 to 2001. His humor columns for The Nation often made fun of the editor of the time, Victor Navasky, whom he jokingly referred to as the wily and parsimonious Navasky.

From the July 2, 1990, issue of The Nation to today, Trillin has written his weekly "Deadline Poet" column humorous poems about current events. Trillin has written considerably more pieces for The Nation than any other single person. Family, travel and food are also themes in Trillin's work. Three of his books American Fried; Alice, Let's Eat; and Third Helpings; were individually published and are also collected in the 1994 compendium The Tummy Trilogy. In 1965, he married the educator and writer Alice Stewart Trillin with whom he had two daughters. Alice died in 2001.

The most autobiographical of his works are Messages from My Father, Family Man, and an essay in the March 27, 2006, New Yorker, "Alice, Off the Page", discussing his late wife. A slightly expanded version of the latter essay, entitled About Alice, was published as a book on December 26, 2006. In Messages from My Father, Trillin recounts how his father always expected his son to be a Jew, but had primarily "raised me to be an American". He has also written a collection of short stories – Barnett Frummer Is An Unbloomed

Flower (1969) and three comic novels, *Runestruck* (1977), *Floater* (1980), and *Tepper Isn't Going Out* (2001).

This last novel is about a man who enjoys parking in New York City for its own sake and is unusual among novels for exploring the subject of parking. In 2008, The Library of America selected the essay *Stranger with a Camera* for inclusion in its two century retrospective of American True Crime. Trillin lives in the Greenwich Village area of New York City ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvin\\_Trillin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvin_Trillin)).

Calvin Trillin made major contribution to English work. One learn from a literary work such as in this novel is the family relationship performed in the work.

*About Alice* is the middle class girl from the 1960s. In *About Alice* novel, Calvin Trillin's intense study of family relationship. Major character in this novel is Alice. Alice who is a wife of Calvin Trillin and the mother of Abigail and Sarah. She comes from middle class. Alice comes off as beautiful, charismatic, generous, and wise. At the high school time, she was not known as a beautiful girl but, embarrassingly enough, as a smart girl. She was rejected as a cheerleader because her reputation as a smart girl at the high school. She grew up among prosperous suburbanites in a family that was always in precarious shape financially. Alice is a beautiful with Alice's faintly red in the face cheeks. Alice has blond and straight hair. Her eyebrow is darker than her hair. Alice is remarkably multifaceted. She is a good

looking and smart. Alice is a mom and a wife that keeps her husband and her children. Alice has a friend, Mina who works as an actress. Jane is a Mina's admirer in CUNY. She is a college of Yale and graduated from the Yale. She is an educator, author, film producer and longtime muse to her husband.

The study of *About Alice* by Calvin Trillin is important because of these following four reasons : First, this study is crucial to be conducted due to the pedagogical element of empowerment in *About Alice*. Empowering students are family relationship factors that will build a better academic atmosphere.

Second, investigating the meaning of social in this study is key point to effort of empowering social students in the educational institutions of family relationship such as husband-wife, parents-child/children.

Third, the present writer will be a teacher later and this project is necessary to be carried out to widen, enlarge, inserts more knowledge to her / his professional competence as teacher.

Finally, the last reason is to supply theoretical framework in the research of literature in the English Department.

In this research paper, the writer is encouraged to entitle the research as the following: **“Family Relationship in Calvin Trillin’s *About Alice* Novel (1963): a Sociological Approach.”**

## **B. Literature Review**

*About Alice* (1963) novel is an interesting novel. As far as the researcher concern the paper, it's no previous study in *About Alice* novel, at least in *UMS*, *UMM*, *UNS*, *UGM*, *UNNES*, and *UI*. So that the researcher cannot compare this research with other research because this is the first study of *About Alice* novel. The researcher uses Sociological Approach to analyze the data and using of *About Alice* novel as an object. The researcher analyzes *FAMILY RELATIONSHIP IN CALVIN TRILLIN ABOUT ALICE NOVEL (1963): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH*.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement of the study is as follows: "How is family relationship reflected in Calvin Trillin's *About Alice* Novel (1963)."

## **D. Limitation of The Study**

In this research, the writer focuses on family relationship in Calvin Trillin in *About Alice* novel (1963) and it is sociological approach. Concerning with sociological approach, there are many problems to be analyzed, but in this research, the analysis is limited only family relationship in Calvin Trillin in *About Alice* novel (1963): a sociological approach. The data will be analyzed by using sociological theory by Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are the following:

1. To analyze family relationship in Calvin Trillin's *About Alice* novel (1963) based on a structural element.
2. To analysis family relationship in Calvin Trillin's *About Alice* novel (1963) based on a sociological approach.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The two benefits can be gained as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The study is projected to give contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, an academic reference by other researchers to conduct the research, and particularly in the literary studies on Calvin Trillin's *About Alice* novel.

#### **2. Practical Benefit**

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or other universities who interested in literary studies.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of The Study**

In this research, the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. The purpose is to analyze by using sociological approach. The steps to conduct the research are as follows: 1. determining the type of the study, 2. determining the object of the study, 3. determining data and data source, 4. determining technique of data collection, and finally 5. determining technique of data analysis.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *About Alice* novel by Calvin Trillin that was published in 1963 by Random House.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data, as follows:

#### **a. Primary Data**

The primary data source is the novel *About Alice* published by Random House.



b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information from internet related to the practice of family relationship that supports the sociological analysis.

#### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The techniques of data collection are as follows:

- a. Read the novel repeatedly,
- b. Take notes of important parts both primary and secondary data,
- c. Arrange the data into several groups based on it's theoretical category,
- d. Select particular parts that considered important and relevant for analysis, and
- e. Draw conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

#### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: the first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological approach. Focus will be paid on the meaning of family relationship.

## **I. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper organization is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 is Introduction that consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory that consists of The Definition of Sociology, The Major Type of Sociological Perspective, Theoretical Approach, The Theory of Family Relationship, and Structural Element of The Novel. Chapter III is Social Background Of The English Society In The Twentieth Century. Chapter IV is Structural Elements Analysis that consists of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style, and Theme. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion that consists of Conclusion and Suggestion that the writer concludes her paper.